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be taken for the introduction of the Railway into South Travancore.

Mr. Abdul Latiff Essa Sait (Member, Nominated) spoke strongly in favour of extending the Quilon Railway to Trivandrum. The Member said that goods now took four days to come from Quilon to Trivandrum. This meant variations in the market prices to the disadvantage of the importer. The Member suggested the construction of the Railway by forming a Company and asking the latter to raise capital by the issue of shares.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

65. *Opening of a State Bank at Trivandrum.*

Mr. Abdul Latiff Essa Sait (Member, Nominated) suggested the opening of a State Bank at Trivandrum. He said that, under this arrangement, Government money, now kept idle in the treasuries, could be made to bear interest, and there would be no necessity for transmitting money from one treasury to another, as that could be done by means of cheques. The Bank would benefit the public, especially the trading communities.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

66. *To penalize begging on the part of the able-bodied.*

Mr. Kanakku Mathevan Mathevan (Member, Nedumangad Taluk) said that beggars in Travancore were of two kinds, firstly, those who were physically unfit for any labour and were unable to maintain themselves except by begging, and secondly, such able-bodied fellows as could work for their livelihood but who would not do so on account of sheer idleness. The Member prayed that begging on the part of the latter class might be made penal.

Dewan.—The suggestion is hardly practicable.

67. *Entertainment of foreigners in the Public Service*

Mr. M. K. Narayana Pillai (Member, Trivandrum Taluk) mentioned that the policy of the Government must be, as far as practicable, to confine the Public Service of this State to its subjects. The entertainment of foreigners in the higher grades must be only for limited periods; and in the lower grades it should be completely stopped, and if any such appointment had to be made under any exceptional circumstance, it must be done with the previous sanction of Government. The interests and happiness of the subjects in each country should be first safeguarded; and it was done best by giving them a full share in the Public Service. The Member said that signs were not wanting to show that the people of the State, as well as

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Government, had begun to see that it was necessary to get the subjects of this State trained in several branches of learning, so that they might become experts and their services might be utilised by the Government with advantage. The Member proposed that, in proportion to the growth of this spirit, there must necessarily be a reduction in the number of officers imported from outside, and that Government might, for the time being, fix a term of years in the case of foreign officers in the higher grades requiring expert knowledge. The Member suggested that Government might be pleased to order all Heads of Departments to give appointments in their gift only to the subjects of this State.

Dewan's reply.—Government concur generally in the views expressed by the Member. For appointments in all the grades of the Travancore Public Service, the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja should certainly have the preference consistently of course with the interests of efficiency. The allegation that, in the lower grades of the service, foreigners are being imported, even when qualified local men are available, will be enquired into. And if there is any such tendency, stringent action will be taken to stop it.

68. *Recreation grounds.*

Mr. P. M. Chacko (Member, T. I. C., Kottayam) stated that there had been a reduction in the number of public places available for recreation and physical exercise. People everywhere were asking for lands and Government were ready to comply with the applications to register lands in the names of private individuals, with the result that the lands that were being used for recreation became the private properties of individuals who enclosed and cultivated them. There was considerable decrease in open spaces throughout the State. The supply of pure air became limited and affected the health of the people. The Member referred particularly to the want of anything like a recreation ground in the town of Kottayam.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

69. *Exemption of Mahomedans from attendance at Courts & Cutcherries on Mahomedan holidays.*

Mr. Kunju Khadir Pillai (Member, Nominated) said that all Mahomedans, whether in the public service or not, should have the privilege of the Mahomedan holidays recently notified in the Gazette, and that they should be exempted from attending the Courts and Cutcherries on those days.

Dewan's reply.—The special holidays for Mahomedans are now being notified in the Gazette. The proposal of the Member to exempt *all* Mahomedans from attending the Courts and Cutcherries on those days will be enquired into.

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